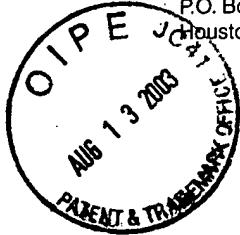


ExxonMobil
Upstream Research Company
P.O. Box 2189
Houston, Texas 77252-2189



08114103

Gary P. Katz
Attorney

2863

ExxonMobil

August 1, 2003

VIA Express Mail No. ET608077090US

Examiner Victor Taylor
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop - Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

ET 608077090 US

Re: ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
US Patent Application No. 09/973,529 filed on October 9, 2001
"Method for Borehole Measurement of Formation Properties"
Attorney Docket No. PM 2000.010A

Examiner Taylor:

In accordance with your telephone instructions of yesterday, July 31, 2003, please find enclosed copies of the following requested documents for the above-identified patent application.

- Copy of the PCT International Search Report
- Copy of the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report
- Copy of the Postcard evidencing receipt of the disclosure documents on 01/29/02.
- Copy of the Postcard evidencing receipt of additional disclosure documents on 02/26/02.
- Copies of the 74 non-patent references in 6 clipped sections.
- Replacement Abstract

At your instruction, copies of the patent references are not included in this package.

Kindly confirm your receipt of these documents by return facsimile at 713.431.4664. Should you have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me by telephone at 713.431.4577 or by facsimile at 713.431.4664.

Very truly yours,

GPK:W&M:mjs
c: J.A. Jennings

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

H. Thomann et al.

Serial No. 09/973,529

Filed: October 9, 2001

**Title: "Method For Borehole
Measurement of Formation
Properties"**

Confirmation No.: 6842

Examiner: Victor J. Taylor

Art Unit: 2863

Docket No.: 2000.010A

Date: August 1, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S TELEPHONE SUGGESTION

This communication is in response to Examiner's telephone request of July 31, 2003 to amend the abstract and provide additional copies of the non-patent references previously cited in the Information Disclosures dated January 29, 2002 and February 26, 2002.

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Please direct any questions to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 13, 2003


Gary P. Katz
Reg. No. 46,099

ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
3120 Buffalo Speedway
P. O. Box 2189
Houston, Texas 77252-2189
Telephone: 713/431-4577
Facsimile: 713/431-4664

Certification under 37 CFR §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this application/correspondence attached hereto is being:

MAILING

deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. § 1.10

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August 13, 2003

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a method of estimating formation properties by analyzing acoustic waves that are emitted from and received by a bottom hole assembly. A bottom hole assembly deployed in a borehole to estimate formation properties. From the bottom hole assembly, a source signal is emitted and at least one signal is received by one or more receivers in the bottom hole assembly. Analysis of the frequency dependent characteristics of the received signal allows the estimation of the formation properties of interest including pore pressure. The formation properties of interest may be used to monitoring the wellbore pressure safety margin and optimizing the weight of drilling mud.